



Sexual Assault

Vital Policy Information for Commanders and First Sergeants

Sexual Assault is a major trauma for the Victim. In addition to the impact on the victim, sexual assault erodes the Army's team by damaging mission readiness. Upon receipt of a report, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) will assign a Unit or Installation Victim Advocate (UVA/IVA) who will offer services to the victim. It is the victim's choice whether or not to accept or decline services. An active duty victim may choose:

- **restricted reporting** (which does not initiate an investigation) or
- **unrestricted reporting** (which does initiate an investigation)

Restricted reporting offers the victim confidentiality with only the following four people:

- **SARC, UVA/IVA, Military Medical Treatment Provider and the Chaplain**

Unrestricted reporting initiates a criminal investigation, possible forensic examination, legal action and communication with the chain of command and other agencies on a need to know basis. All other soldiers have a duty to report all incidents of sexual assault to their chain of command within 24 hours (AR 600-20 chapter 8.2). Non-identifying statistical information will be reported up the Chain of Command. An Advocate will be assigned by the SARC if the Victim is active duty. The Advocate's job is to guide the victim through the process, helping them receive services and providing information so they can make informed choices each step of the way.

Army Policy

Sexual assault is a criminal offense that has no place in the Army. The Army will use training, education and awareness to:

- reduce the occurrence of sexual assault;
- promote the sensitive handling of victims;
- offer victims resources to include medical and mental health treatment and victim advocacy services;
- hold those who commit sexual assault offenses accountable;
- provide confidential avenues for reporting; and
- reinforce a commitment to Army Values.

The Army will treat all victims of sexual assault with dignity, fairness, and respect. Information and circumstances of allegations will be disclosed on a need to know basis only. For more information, visit www.sexualassault.army.mil or contact:

- Criminal Investigation Division (CID) / (719) 526-1099
- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) / (719) 526-0461 or 691-0461
- Victim Advocate / (719) 526-4590 or Victim Advocate 24/7 Pager / (719) 577-3171

Questions and Answers for Unit Commanders



Q: How can a Commander prevent sexual assault from occurring?

A: *Commanders have a duty to establish a command climate where safety is promoted, where soldiers and Army civilian employees are educated on sexual assault risk reduction techniques and where soldiers and Army civilians feel free to report incidents.*

Q: What if I 'hear' about a sexual assault?

A: *You have a duty to report to law enforcement so they can initiate an investigation. Also, call the SARC with information so a IVA/UVA can be assigned; If you hear a 'rumor', follow up, quell gossip and follow procedures.*

Q: If I receive a 'blind' or restricted report from the SARC, am I to initiate an investigation?

A: *No. The SARC will not give identifying information on a restricted report. You will be given non-identifying information that an assault has taken place because the victim has chosen restricted reporting.*

Q: Does the alleged perpetrator have rights?

A: *Yes. The alleged perpetrator has the right to be presumed innocent until a court finds them guilty. Protect alleged perpetrator's rights by squashing gossip because an innocent person's reputation can be damaged by a lie. It is law enforcement's responsibility to conduct a thorough investigation to find the truth.*

Q: If I hear that a Soldier in my Command has been raped, can I order that Soldier to report and to get treatment?

A: *No. Only the victim can make that choice even if evidence can verify that an assault occurred.*

Q: A Military Protective Order (MPO) is good for 14 days and not valid off-post. What about a Commander no-contact order?

A: *The Commander can issue a 'no contact order' to an alleged assault perpetrator; the order is valid off-post and violations are punishable under the UCMJ.*

Q: If I feel that I need more training and/or that personnel under my Command need more training and information, where do I go to get it?

A: *The Installation SARC arranges training and disseminates information. If you feel your unit needs additional training to help prevent further occurrences of sexual assault please contact the office of the SARC. We are here to assist.*